



*Grazing buffalo used to maintain this clover's habitat. When the buffalo were killed off, the clover suffered dramatically.*



## Running Buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*)

Running buffalo clover is a federally *endangered species*. *Endangered species* are plants and animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. *Threatened species* are animals and plants that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. Identifying, protecting, and restoring endangered and threatened species is the primary objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program.

### Habitat

Running buffalo clover prefers forest and prairie clearings with rich soil. Grazing bison probably maintained these open areas while migrating along established trails. Running buffalo clover may also have depended on bison for soil enrichment and seed dispersal.

### Why It's Threatened

Running buffalo clover was apparently once widespread across much of the midwestern U.S. It could be found in a belt that stretched from Kansas across the Ohio River Valley to West Virginia. The disappearance of bison from the clover's historic range appears to have been the major cause of its decline. In the early 1980's only two populations were known, but the listing of the clover as an endangered species spurred survey and research efforts. Seven more populations were soon discovered and additional surveys are in progress.

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